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VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

Containing the freſheſt Advices, Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Friday, Auguſt 19, to Friday, Auguſt 26, 1737.

From the LONDON MAGAZINE, *for* April, 1737.

Of the FREE-MASONS.

SIR,

AMONGST all the Inſtances, lately produced, of our Advantages over other Nations, in Point of *Liberty*, there is one that deſerves your ſerious Conſideration; I mean the Toleration of that myſterious Society, called FREE-MASONS; who have been lately ſuppreſs'd not only in *France*, but in *Holland*, as a dangerous Race of Men; whereas here they are permitted to hold their private Meetings in every part of the Town, and even to appear in publick Proceſſion, with the Enſigns of their Order.

Indeed, I have often wonder'd they have not been laid under ſome Reſtraints in *England*; for tho' *our preſent moſt excellent Miniſters* have always preſerved a ſacred Regard to *Liberty*, I think no Government ought to ſuffer ſuch dark and clandeſtine Aſſemblies, where Plots againſt the State may be carried on under the Pretence of *Brotherly Love* and *Good-Fellowſhip*.

The *Act of Toleration* does not allow of *private Conventicles*, even in Caſes of *Conſcience*, but injoins that all *Meeting Houſes* or *Places of Worſhip*, ſhall be not only *licenſed* but *publick*; and all others are puniſhable as contrary to Law. Shall more Indulgence be granted to this *incomprehenſible Fraternity*, who do not pretend to plead *Conſcience* or any *publick Emolument*, in their Behalf?

They derive thir Original, as I am inform'd, from the building of *Babel*, which was an audacious Attempt againſt *Heaven*; inſomuch that *God* himſelf, thought fit to defeat their Deſign by the *Confuſion of Tongues*, that ſuch impious Offenders might not underſtand one another. But our *modern Maſons* pretend to an *univerſal Dumb Language*, by which People of all Nations, who are initiated into their Myſteries, can eaſily converſe together, by the Help of certain *Signs*, which nobody underſtands but themſelves.

It is likewiſe ſaid, that by the *ſame Signs* they can oblige any of their Brethen to leave off their Buſineſs, and follow them wherever they pleaſe; a Power of a very dangerous Nature, and which may be ſome Time or other turn'd to a very ill Uſe.

The *Concord*, which reigns amongſt them, is very ſurprizing; for tho' they are compoſed of all *Nations*, *Parties*, and *Religions*, we are told there hath not happen'd the leaſt Quarrel or Diſturbance in any of their Aſſemblies.

That *impenetrable Secrecy*, for which they are ſo famous, is likewiſe Matter of juſt Suſpicion, and ſeems to indicate that there is ſomething in their *noctural Rites* which they are afraid of having diſcover'd.

For this Reaſon, they not only lock themſelves into the Room where they meet, and ſuffer none to wait upon them, except *Brethren*; but upon all extraordinary Occaſions (ſuch as admitting *new Members*, or inſtituting *Lodges*,) a *Centinel* is placed at the outſide of the Door, with a *drawn Sword* in his Hand, to prevent all Diſcoveries.

This is not the only Mark of their being a *military Order*; for they give their *chief Officer* the Title of *Grand-Maſter*; in Imitation, I preſume, of the *Knights of Malta*; nay, he hath a *Sword of State* carried before him, almoſt as large and richly ornamented as that of his Majeſty. *This Sword* was preſented to them, as I am inform'd, by a *great Roman-Catholick Peer*: With what View I ſhall not take upon myſelf to determine. But if the Worſhipful Mr. B. were taken up and cloſely examined about it, I fancy he might be induced to make ſome uſeful Diſcoveries.

There ſeems likewiſe to be ſomething emblematical in their *Gloves* and *Aprons*. A *Glove* is only another Word for a *Gauntlet*, and a *Gauntlet* is a *Piece of Armour for the Hands*. An *Apron* indeed, is a proper Badge of *Maſonry*, in the literal Senſe; but I am told, it is likewiſe a Term in *Gunnery* for a flat Piece of Lead to cover the *Touch hole of a Cannon*, when it's loaded; and I leave my *Superiors* to judge whether it may not be made Uſe of by our *Free-Maſons* to typify ſomething of the ſame Nature.

It farther deſerves Notice how artfully they have diſpers'd themſelves in *different Lodges*, thro' all Parts of the Kingdom, and particular in *this great Metropolis*; as if it were on Purpoſe to beat up for *Volunteers*, in which they make no Diſtinction of Perſons; for they not only admit of *Turks*, *Jews*, and *Infidels*, but even *Jacobites*, *Nonjurors*, and *Papiſts* themſelves

They keep their Proceedings ſo very private, that it is impoſſible to gueſs what *Seal of Secrecy* they have invented, which is able to tie up the Mouths of ſuch Multitudes of People; for there are many of them, whom the moſt *ſolemn Oaths* could not bind on any other Occaſions, and yet nothing hath been able to ſhake their Fidelity, in *this Particular*. I wiſh it may not be ſomewhat like *that horrid Obligation*, which *Catiline* adminiſter'd to his *Fellow-Conſpirators*.

Upon the whole, *this myſterious Society* hath too much the Air of an *Inquiſition*, where every Thing is tranſacted in the Dark; and I wiſh it may not be ſpawn'd from the ſame helliſh Original, notwithſtanding its pretended Antiquity.

I am ſenſible that many plauſible Reaſons may be alledged, in Favour of *this Fraternity*.

And, *firſt*, it may be ſaid, that a *learned and worthy Divine of the Church of England* hath long ago publiſhed the *Inſtitutions of the Free-Maſons*, which contain nothing but what is perfectly innocent, and prove them rather to be a *whimſical* than a *dangerous Sect*. But *this Book* ſeems deſign'd rather to *amuſe* than *inform* the World, and put them upon a wrong Scent; for it is not to be ſuppoſed he would reveal *thoſe boaſted Myſteries*, in which the very Eſſence of their *Society* conſiſts. They have no Doubt, their *Secreta Monita*, as well as the *Jeſuits*, and we can never hope to ſee them in *one Caſe*, unleſs by meer Accident, as it happen'd in the *other*.

But the moſt material Argument is, that there are ſo many of the *Nobility*, *Gentry*, and even the *Clergy*, of the moſt undoubted Affection to his Majeſty, in *this Society*; that as it will be impoſſible to carry on any wicked Deſigns againſt him, without their Knowledge, ſo it cannot be ſuppoſed they will concur in them, or conceal them. But with all due Deference to *thoſe honourable* and *reverend Perſons*, I muſt beg Leave to give my Opinion, that *this Argument* is very fallacious, and upon which we can have no ſure Dependance; for I apprehend

prehend the *Obligation*, which the *Free-Maſons* take, to be of ſuch a Nature, that the *blackeſt Conſpiracies* or *Machinations*, will not allow them to break thro' it. Beſides, how can we be ſure that *thoſe Perſons*, who are known to be *well affected*, are let into all their *Myſteries?* They acknowledge there is a Diſtinction between *Prentices* and *Maſter-Maſons*; and who knows whether they may not have an higher Order of *Cabaliſts*, who keep the *grand Secret* of all intirely to themſelves?

It may likewiſe be ask'd, perhaps, in what *Plots*, or *ill Deſigns*, they have been engaged, ever ſince the firſt Foundation of *their Society?* This Queſtion is not eaſily anſwer'd; for their Principles and Actions are ſo unfathomable, that nobody can pretend to ſay with any certainty in what they are, or are not concern'd; but I cannot help thinking them at the Bottom of *one Affair*, which hath lately happen'd, and is now upon the *Tapis*; I mean the late Tumult at *Edinburgh*, and the Murder of Capt. *Porteous*; which was concerted and executed with ſo much *Unanimity* and *Secrecy*, that none but a Mob of *Free-Maſons* could be guilty of it, without the Diſcovery of *one Perſon* in ſo numerous a Multitude as were concern'd in that *atrocious Fact*.

I am glad to hear that a *Law* is likely to paſs, in the Nature of the *Black-Act*, (the moſt compendious of all *penal Laws*) for preventing any *ſuch Riots*, for the future, by trying the Authors, or Accomplices of them in *England*; for, if the *Scots* will not find one another guilty, there is all the Reaſon in the World they ſhould be try'd by an *impartial Jury*, who know nothing of *them*, or *their Characters*; and I hope to ſee the *Free-Maſons* included in the *ſame Bill*; for they may be properly ſaid to *go in Diſguiſe*.

I know *theſe Men* are generally look'd upon in *England*, as a Parcel of idle People, who meet together only to make merry, and play ſome ridiculous Pranks; but it is very plain that the wiſe Governments of *France* and *Holland* look upon them in a very different Light; and I humbly hope to ſee my own Country follow the Example of the *latter*, at leaſt, by ſuppreſſing *ſuch dangerous Aſſemblies*.

But if a *total Suppreſſion* ſhould be thought inconſiſtent with our *free Conſtitution*, and *moſt incomparable Government*, I have an Alternative to offer; which is, to lay a double Tax upon all *Free-Maſons*, as there hath been for many Years upon the *Papiſts*.

I flatter myſelf that *this Scheme* will not prove diſagreeable, at preſent, when *great Sums of Money* are wanted, and *Ways and Means* are ſo very hard to be found. I am ſure, it will be more acceptable to the Generality of Mankind, or at leaſt of Womankind, than the *Reduction of Intereſt to 3 per Cent.* without any *Redemption of Taxes*; for, as the *Ladies* have a very bad Opinion of the *Free-Maſons*, and are incapable of being admitted into *that Order*, they will never complain of any Tax being laid upon *keeping a Secret*, which they are not let into themſelves.

I am, Sir, &c. JACHIN.

April 17. We have the following Letter from our Correſpondent at Paris:

The Marqueſs de Monti, who acquired ſo much Reputation when the Ambaſſador in Poland, by his real Activity and ſeeming Zeal for the Service of King Staniſlaus; the Marqueſs de Monti, who lately received ſuch Honour at Bologna in Italy, the Place of his Nativity; that very Marqueſs de Monti, who not long ago was honour'd with the Order of the Holy Ghoſt, and nam'd for his Majeſty's Ambaſſador to the Court of Vienna, is now *diſgrac'd*, and ſhares the Fate of Chauvelin, becauſe he has been fully convicted of having ſhared with him thoſe Sums that were ſent to engage the Poliſh and Pruſſian Grandees in the Intereſt of King Staniſlaus. This Meteor, from a Foreign Clime, could not be ſatisfied with the prodigious Riſe of his Fortune, but by Malverſations and Breach of Faith, as ſoon as Truſt afforded him an Opportunity to ſhew the Corruption and Avarice of his Nature, he aim'd to grow rich on a ſudden; and has now verified the Saying of *Solomon*: *As a Stranger he meets with little Pity; and if a Knave and a Fool, he deſerves more.*

One Le Doux died ſome Days ago in Normandy, in the 111th Year of his Age, and has left a Widow, aged 105.

Letters from Lisbon ſay, That a Prieſt, a Native of Monſarez, died lately at Olivenga, aged 120 Years.

Some Letters from Conſtantinople ſay, That the Populace, incenſed at the Conditions of Peace propoſed to the Porte, went to the Seraglio, and as the Grand Signior was returning from Hunting, cried out, *War, War, againſt the Muſcovites; let us revenge the Glory of the Muſſulmans.*

London, April 19. We are told ſuch ſhocking Stories concerning the dreadful Famine in Poland, that the like have not been heard ſince the Siege of Jeruſalem; and particularly the following, viz. A young Woman was unhappily about matching herſelf to a Member of a Family, whoſe Neceſſities were ſo urgent, that they were obliged to eat Two of their own Children, one of them 12 Years old; the poor Girl, in this Diſtreſs, generouſly diſpoſed of all ſhe had towards their Relief; but when every thing was gone, the Bridegroom flung down his intended Conſort, cut her Throat, and fed upon her Carcaſe with the reſt of the Family: They were all taken up, confeſſed the Fact, and will undoubtedly receive a Puniſhment ſuitable to the Enormity of their Crimes.

April 21. We hear from Whitchurch, in Herefordſhire, That on Wedneſday Evening, Samuel Thomas, of Langarran, near that Place, Labourer, being out at Work, his Wife was digging in the Garden, and left Two Children in the Houſe (one near four, and the other about a Year and half old) the eldeſt of which, took the other into a Pigſty adjoining thereto, wherein was ſome Straw, cover'd it therewith, and then ſet the Straw on Fire, (in Imitation, as 'tis thought, of the Father, who had 2 or 3 Days before kill'd a Pig, and ſyng'd it;) the Wind being very high, increas'd the Flame, and the Child was ſo miſerably burnt before the Mother could get it out, that it liv'd but 8 Hours after. The Mother was much burnt; and the Houſe, with the greateſt Part of the poor Man's Goods, entirely conſumed.

May 7. The Spaniards, who ſeem ſo much elated with their late Succeſs, and ſo full of their lofty and deſtructive Schemes, are like to be humbled by Famine: The heavy Rains which fell in ſome Parts of their Country, have not in the leaſt, contributed to the Growth of the Corn: In Andaluſia the Drougth ſtill continues, as well as on the oppoſite Coaſt of Africa, where the miſerable Inhabitants are forced to eat Graſs like the Beaſts of the Field. In Poland, we find no Abatement of the publick Diſtreſs: A Body of Ruſſians propoſed to paſs thro' the Territories of that Kingdom, in order to join the Inhabitants on the Side of Hungary; but on Enquiry, found it neceſſary to abate their Reſolution, becauſe in their Rout, they could have no Proviſions either for Love or Money.

So much Calamity raging in divers Parts of Europe, how frightful ſo ever it be, muſt certainly turn out to the Advantage of England, where the Farmer will not only be able to weather his heavy Rents and Taxes, but even enrich himſelf. Corn of all Sorts is ſo much call'd for broad, that very near 4000 Quarters were laſt Thurſday exported to Spain, Portugal, and the Streights, and even ſome Parts of France, where a Scarcity is complain'd of.

May 10. The Holland Mail juſt arriv'd, brings an Account, that one half of the City of Smyrna in Turkey, and Three Fortreſſes adjoining thereto, were ſwallow'd up the 5th paſt, by a terrible Earthquake, which laſted Two Minutes; and that the ſame Misfortune was felt at Conſtantinople Two Days after, whereby Fort Romelia was demoliſh'd, and the Canal on which it ſtood, overflowed a great Part of the Country.

As for His Majeſty King Theodore 'tis aſſur'd, that after all his Erranty, the Gallows is likely to be his Doom, for uttering forg'd Bills of Exchange, to extricate himſelf out of Debt: This unkingly Proceeding has procur'd him a diſmal Lodging in a dark Dungeon at Amſterdam, from whence he is ſhortly to be brought to his Trial, like any other common Offender.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from Paris.

We have at preſent here, not only an illuſtrious, but moſt prodigious Pattern of Goodneſs to the Afflicted and Unfortunate: He ſeems to be Charity itſelf come to bleſs this Metropolis and Kingdom in a human Shape: The Perſon I mean, is the Duke of Orleans, who, if his Means were equal to the Benevolence of his Mind, would enrich all the Poor in the Univerſe; for his Bounties and Charities are not confin'd to his own Country; Abundance of Britiſh Subjects here have largely partaken of them; and a great Number of the Children of Iriſh Officers in the Service of France owe their preſent Support to the generous Care he has ordered to be had of them.

The Generality of Peers and Nobility too, are conſpicuous for the Number of Families to which they give Penſions to ſubſiſt them; it is impoſſible for them to keep their Charities long a Secret, for the Gratitude of the Receivers ſtill proclaim them ſome time or other; and it was judiciouſly remark'd by a Subject of Great-Britain, that the French Quality give twice as much every Year to the Poor as they throw away on Operas, Maſquerades and Aſſemblies; but whether the Britiſh Quality imitate them in ſo laudable an Atonement for their Vices, is what we are no Judges of on this Side the Water. Your Act for Inſolvent Debtors is very much talk'd of among our Countrymen here, and the French themſelves highly commend it; but they think your Laws very oddly fram'd, or the Generality of the Engliſh very much depraved and immoral in their Principles, to make Priſons ſo abſolutely neceſſary among you for the getting in of Debts. It is true, we have Priſons and Priſoners too for Debts, but I have been told that you have more People confin'd, that is, lock'd up in the Fleet, or King's Bench, than can be found in all the Priſons of Paris put together, and it is morally impoſſible even for our Priſoners to be diſtreſſed for any Thing neceſſary to a ſufficient Subſiſtence, their Liberty excepted: Nor is it in my Power to deſcribe to you, or even give you an Idea of the Collections made for Priſoners in this Holy Time of Lent, beſides the private Charities ſent to them: In theſe Works of Piety and Grace, the Agents are not Pariſh-Officers, Overſeers of the Poor, and ſuch Sorts of Gentry; no Sir, you ſhall ſee Preſidents of the Parliament, Marſhals of France, Princeſſes and Dutcheſſes, the Nobility of all Degrees, and both Sexes, making ſuch Collections, viſiting the Priſoners One by One: They don't truſt to a Gaoler or a Turnkey, but diſtribute their Charities with their own Hands, and in ſuch Places as would give one of your Petit-Maitres the Vapours to come within Sight of it. As for the fine Ladies of London and Weſtminſter, I don't write you this as a Leſſon for them: The dear Creatures have no Time to ſpend in ſuch Acts of Piety, or Money to ſpare from the Opera and Quadrille. If they are but handſome, well-ſhap'd, and have Prudence enough to preſerve their Reputation, according to what the Mode calls Reputation, they immediately think they fulfil the Duties of a Chriſtian, and indulge their Pleaſures, without the leaſt Reflection on the Miſeries of their Fellow Creatures. But, had not a Lady, a fine Engliſh Lady, better lend a Part of her Pin-Money to God Almighty, by diſtributing it among the Priſons of London and Weſtminſter, than ſacrifice it all to her Vanity or her Pleaſures? The moſt uncharitable hard-hearted Fellow that France ever had for a Miniſter, was Chauvelin, and you ſee what became of him; I ſhould ſay, what is become of him hitherto; for every Degree of Douceur he meets with, will be conſtrued by ſome watchful People to the Diſadvantage of the Cardinal.

May 12. The laſt Advices from Madrid take Notice, that no Pains were ſpared in all Parts of Spain, not only to recruit the Army; but with what Deſign is kept ſo profound a Secret, that there is no coming at the Bottom of it 'til it is juſt ready to be put in Execution, which 'tis thought will be about the Cloſe of next Month.

'Tis plain however, that nothing is apprehended to be acting againſt Great Britain, becauſe inſtead of bearing up for Sailors, we have already diſcharg'd (tho' contrary to the general Expectation) moſt of thoſe that were on board Sir John Norris's Squadron; but ſhou'd any unforeſeen Accident or Danger happen, there are enough who would leap at the Opportunity of embracing the Service, eſpecially when it is to fight againſt the Spaniards.

Several of our Politians are of Opinion, that this Armament of Spain is deſign'd to take Poſſeſſion of Corſica.

We have Advices from Warſaw which aſſure us, that the Plague has ſhewn it ſelf in ſeveral Places towards the Side of the Ukrain.

Yeſterday the Body of Euſtace Budgel, Eſq; who drowned himſelf laſt Week by jumping out of a Boat under London Bridge, was taken up. What drove him to this deſperate Action is uncertain, ſome attributing it to a diſorder'd Brain, with which he was troubled for ſome Time, and others to his narrow Circumſtances, which is moſt likely, ſince a Protection was found in his Pocket, ſign'd by the Earl of Orrery. He lately bought Materials and ſet up a Printing-Office in the Strand; but as that ingenious Myſtery ſeldom anſwers but to thoſe who are Proficients in it, 'tis thought that might ſomething affect him. He was a Man of Parts, and Author of ſeveral Tracts, Hiſtorical and Critical, ſome of which were well receiv'd by the Publick.

As a young Gentleman was carrying before a Juſtice for being concerned the Night before in a Fray, and imputing his Misfortune to the Foulneſs of his Tongue, he, without any more ado, cut it out.

From the Gloceſter Journal, of May 17.

That the Senate of Genoa, are underhand treating with Spain, to ſell the Iſland of Corſica; the further Defence whereof, the Senate is grown entirely negligent of.

That there is a general Talk in France, of a total Change in the Miniſtry: That M. Cray will be made a Cardinal, and then Prime Miniſter.

That the Imperial and Ruſſian Miniſters are preparing to repair to the Place appointed for holding a Congreſs; but as the Armies of thoſe Powers have actually taken the Field, 'tis thought no Good will ariſe from the intended Negociations.

Yeſterday the Lords paſſed the Bill, to impriſon the Provoſt of Edinburgh, and ordered the ſame to be ſent to the Commons, by Two of the Judges: The Subſtance of which is, That Alexander Wilſon, Eſq, the Provoſt, be impriſoned for one Year, and diſabled for ever hereafter from holding any Office in Great-Britain, becauſe he did not take Care to prevent the Murder of Capt. Porteus, notwithſtanding he was apprized of it: That the City-Guard be demoliſhed, becauſe it proved of no Uſe, on that unhappy Occaſion: And that the Nether-Bow Port be taken down, becauſe it hinders an open Communication between the City, and a Place call'd Cannon-gate, to the great Encouragement of Riots.

Their Lordſhips alſo paſſed the Bill for building a Bridge at Weſtminſter. And a Bill to prevent Interludes at the Univerſity of Cambridge.

The Court goes into Mourning for Three Weeks for the Death of the Prince of Brandenburgh Anſpach, a near Relation to her Majeſty.

Yeſterday thirteen hundred Quarters of Wheat were exported to Spain, where the Scarcity is ſo great that the poorer Sort live chiefly on Herbs.

South Sea Trading Stock, was 103, 1 Half.

Price of Corn, &c. at Bear-Key, per Quarter.

Wheat 30 to 34 s. Barley 15 to 17 s. Oats 12 to 16 s. Old Hops 4 to 6 l. per hundred New ditto 7 to 8 l. 10 s. Beans 20 to 22 s. Brown ditto 16 to 18 s.

Price of Corn at Glouceſter. Wheat from 5s. 6d. to 6s. per Buſhel.

London, May 21. The Progreſs of the Pretender's eldeſt Son into ſeveral Parts of Europe, makes a great Noiſe. A grand Apartment is fitting up for him in the Monaſtry of St. Catherine, belonging to the Benedictine Monks at Genoa; and 'tis general reported, that the Genoeſe intend him the Iſland of Corſica.------ Letters from Paris of the 20th Inſt. adviſe, that this young Adventurer is expected in that City about the Cloſe of the next Month, and that he is to make ſome Stay there; his Deſign being ſuppoſed to be to ſeek out a Wife amongſt the Princeſſes of France.

We

We hear that his Majeſty has been pleas'd to appoint his Grace the Duke of Argyl and Greenwich to be Governor of Edinburgh Caſtle, in the room of the late Earl of Orkney, deceas'd.

We hear that the Inſolvent Debtors Bill ſtands thus, as amended by the Lords, and commences from the Firſt of January; every Perſon will be entitled to the Benefit, if the Sum does not exceed 500 l. and that Bankrupts giving in a Certificate, will likewiſe be entitled to the Benefits of the Bill as well as others. Perſons that are abroad are within the Act.

We have an Account from Namptwich in Cheſhire, that on their Market-Day laſt Week, the Market-Houſe in that Town, which was a very old Building, of a ſudden fell down, by which Accident Nine of the Market People had the Misfortune to be killed, and ſome others wounded.

We hear from Boſton in Lincolnſhire, that a few Days ago, a Sailor, to ſhew his Activity and Boldneſs, went up the higheſt Pinacle of the Tower, where he hung by his Hams to the Iron on which the Fane was fixed. He had hung upon ſeven of the Bars, but when he hung upon the Eighth, the Iron broke, and he fell down to the Bottom of the Lanthorn, by which he broke his Limbs in ſo miſerable a Manner, that he died on the Spot.

Yeſterday the Lords read a firſt Time a Bill preſented by the Earl of Iſla, entituled, An Act, for the more effectual bringing to Juſtice any Perſons concern'd in the Murder of Capt. Porteus.

'Tis computed, that about 10,000 Quarters of all ſorts of Grain have been exported within theſe 8 Weeks to Spain.

May 26. By the Flanders Mail yeſterday, 'tis adviſed, that the Imperial Troops were all in a Hurry, aſſembling in Hungary; but that the Ground is ſo parch'd up with the long Drought, that unleſs they have ſome Rain there very ſoon, there will be a total Scarcity of Forage. The Saxon Troops deſign'd for the Emperor's Service, are by this Time arriv'd in Bohemia; they carry with them 8 Waggon Loads of Powder, and 52 of all ſorts of Ammunition, beſides 8 Pieces of Cannon, which, by the Help of a new Machine, can be fir'd Three Times ſooner than a common Piece.

From Genoa, the 4th Inſtant, That the Pretender's Son, at his Arrival in that City, was receiv'd with the greateſt Marks of Diſtinction, by the Nobility; the Spaniſh Envoy has likewiſe paid him a Viſit.

We are told that the New Loan for lending the Emperor 250,000 l. is already fill'd.

Yeſterday the Bill for ſettling 50,000 l. on her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Wales, as a Jointure, was read a firſt Time; and Order'd, *Nem. con.* to be read a ſecond Time.

Mullingar, April 16. Laſt Friday a Gentleman of the County of Weſtmeath was taken on a mark'd Writ of 1000 l. by the following Stratagem: The Bailiff who had the Warrant, hearing the Gentleman was to hunt next Morning, provided a Hare at ſome little Diſtance from the Kenel Door, and dragged it along the Ground for about a Mile to Ambuſcade prepar'd for the Gentleman; the Dogs ran the Dragg, and the Gentleman purſuing, came in with the Hounds and was taken.

Boſton, July 25. We hear, Four Veſſels lately fitted out from Curacoa, to make Repriſals on the Spaniards, have taken Two Veſſels laden with Cocoa, and Three more, with little in them. If the Engliſh were permitted to act with the like Reſolution as theſe Gallant Dutchmen, News of our Veſſels being taken and plunder'd by the Spaniards, would not be ſo often heard, as it has been of late Years.

Williamsburg, Auguſt 26. We hear from *South-Carolina*, of the 11th Inſtant, That Proviſions were very ſcarce there; and that ſeveral Negros in the Country had died of Want. They have had ſuch prodigious Rains the laſt Spring, that almoſt every thing in the Ground was deſtroy'd thereby; and an exceſſive Heat following, had burnt up what was left: So that (as a Gentleman writes to his Friend) *nothing but great Miſery was expected.* Indian Corn was ſold for 40 s. per Buſhel.

And we hear from *Maryland*, That by reaſon of the exceſſive Drought in that Province, which has, in moſt Parts thereof, ſcorch'd up the Fruits of the Earth, the Exportation of all manner of Grain is ſtrictly prohibited.

A free Negro Man was try'd and convicted, at the laſt *Iſle of Wight* County Court, for ſeveral Times attempting to raviſh a White Girl, about 7 Years old. He receiv'd Sentence to ſtand in the Pillory an Hour, to have 29 Laſhes well laid on his bare Back, and to be ſold for the Payment of his Fees. He was accordingly pillory'd, and much pelted by the Populace; and afterwards ſmartly Whipp'd.

Verſes occaſioned by a young Lady's *ſinging to the* SPINNET.

By a young Gentleman *in* VIRGINIA.

SWEETNESS and Strength in *Silvia*'s Voice unite,
The God that gave it, gave it for Delight:
Orpheus, who drew, by Muſick, Woods along,
Muſt yield to *Silvia*'s entertaining Song.
When firſt I heard and liſtned to admire,
My Breaſt ſoon felt a ſtrange, unuſual Fire;
Nor could I think meer Sound would ever prove,
So fit an Engine for inſidious Love.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Auguſt 26, 1737.

LOST *about Three Weeks ago, within Three Miles of Col.* Corbin's, *in* King and Queen *County, a Triangular Seal, ſet in Gold, with a Coat of Arms engrav'd on one Side, a Creſt on another Side, and the Letters* W. G. *in a Cypher, on the Third.*

Whoever brings the ſaid Seal to the Printer of this Paper, ſhall have Half a Piſtole Reward.

Auguſt 24, 1737.

LAST Friday *was Se'nnight, a Negroe Woman, belonging to Mr.* Clayborn Gouge, *at* Clayborn's *Ferry, in* New-Kent *County, either ran away, or was convey'd away by Water: She is of a low Stature, well ſet, Grey-headed, a* Virginian *born, and ſpeaks good* Engliſh. *Whoever will bring her to her ſaid Maſter, ſhall have a Piſtole Reward, beſides what the Law allows: And any Perſon that will prove who convey'd her away, ſhall have Five Pounds Reward, paid by*

Clayborne Gouge.

THIS *is to give Notice, That the Subſcriber will attend at Mrs.* Packe's, *in* Williamsburg, *the Week before next* October *General Court, to meet all Perſons who have Buſineſs with him. And as he expects by that Time, his* Abridgment *will be ready to be delivered to the Subſcribers, he will take it as a Favour of ſuch as have an Opportunity, to receive them there, as it will ſave the Expence of ſending ſo many to the ſeveral Counties.* John Mercer.

*** *Mr.* Mercer *deſires the Gentlemen who have his Subſcription Papers for the* Abridgment of the Laws of VIRGINIA, *to return them to him, or the Printer of this Paper, before or at the next General Court, that he may know who have ſubſcrib'd for them, and accordingly deliver the Books.*

Nanſemond, July, 14, 1737.

RAN *away ſome Time in* June *laſt, from* William Pierce, *of* Nanſemond *County, near Mr.* Theophilus Pugh's, *Merchant; A Convict Servant Woman, named* Winnifred Thomas. *She is a* Welſh *Woman, ſhort black Hair'd, and young; mark'd on the Inſide of her Right Arm, with Gun-powder,* W. T. *and the Date of the Year underneath. She knits and ſpins, and is ſuppos'd to be gone into* North-Carolina, *by the Way of* Curratuck, *and* Roanoke-Inlet.

Whoever brings her to her Maſter, ſhall be paid a Piſtole, beſide what the Law allows, paid by

William Pierce.

Williamsburg: Printed by W. PARKS. By whom Subſcriptions are taken in for this Paper, at 15 s. *per Ann.* And BOOK-BINDING is done reaſonably, in the beſt Manner.